

Appl. No. 09/715,717
Amdt. Dated June 3, 2005
Reply to Office action of April 6, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P13910-US1
EUS/J/P/05-3128

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

Claims 29-48 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 29, 31-33, 36-39, 41-43 and 46-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verma. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Verma reference appears to disclose a method and system for handoff between network devices (mobile device and a network containing tunnel initiators). In Verma a first connection request is received from a mobile client and the request includes a client identifier value for the client. A connection is established with a first connection (tunnel) initiator. A second connection request is received from the client at a second connection (tunnel) initiator and the request includes the client identifier value. A second set of call information including a handoff request message is sent to the connection endpoint. Responsive to the handoff request message, the first set of call information is retrieved and a second connection from the second connection initiator is established where a second initiator uses the second set of call information. (Col. 5, line 62-Col. 6, line 32).

Each time a remote client moves from the service area of one tunnel initiator server to another, a link is established and the packets are sent to HDLC for framing. Because HDLC is relatively stateless, the connection set-up between the HDLC peers in the client and tunnel initiator is minimal. Call state for a PPP session is maintained in the remote client and a tunnel endpoint independent of the link connection between the remote client and the tunnel initiators. Data transfer over the tunnel between the remote client and the new tunnel endpoint can resume where transmission left off using the call state stored for the tunnel in tunnel endpoint. (Col.10, lines 5-19)

In summary, the Verma reference discloses a system that utilizes tunneling to maintain a connection when a mobile device is moving in a network.

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The Applicant's invention discloses an arrangement wherein a mobile terminal establishes a first connection with a first access unit upon entry into a first coverage area. Connection data for the mobile terminal is obtained by the first access unit and is forwarded to the second access unit (payment extraction unit). The payment extraction unit uses the connection data to obtain payment data. The invention is focused on detecting and connecting with a mobile terminal as it enters a people transportation station and determining information about the mobile subscriber for the purposes of billing. The information is passed on to the payment extraction unit so that when the mobile passes the area of the payment extraction unit, the mobile terminal is detected and the billing information is applied to the mobile subscriber's account. (Summary)

In a sense, the arrangement provides a first unit that starts the checking process and by the time the mobile subscriber goes through the entry to the transportation platform, the arrangement has all the billing information available to send the bill to the subscriber's account. The information is passed to the payment extraction unit so that when the mobile subscriber actually passes through the area covered by the payment extraction unit at the entrance to the transportation platform, the billing information is sent to a billing unit. The idea is to let a mobile subscriber enter a transportation station and move through to the transportation equipment without stopping and still pay the transportation fee.

In the Official Action, a correspondence is drawn between the claimed feature in the Applicant's invention of a payment extraction unit having a second coverage area and the description of the tunneling and connection maintenance of Verma. Applicant has reviewed this cited portion of Verma and the Applicant finds no reference to a payment extraction unit with a second coverage area. Instead, the cited portion of Verma describes receiving a user moved message in a second connection initiator. Subsequently the client makes a second connection request which results in a handoff request message. And responsive to the handoff request, the second connection is established from the second connection initiator.

There is no teaching or suggestion that this second connection is for a payment element in Verma. Nor does Verma suggest that the handoff from the first connection is

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for the purpose of establishing a connection that will result in billing. Verma states that the relationship between the first and second connection is for maintaining a communication stream between a mobile node and a communication endpoint. Furthermore, Verma may be able to extract information similar to the way the Applicant's invention extracts payment information but Verma does not provide a method or unit for applying the information to the extracted information to make charges to a subscriber's registered account. Verma is disclosing a method for handing over from one connection to another and using client information to facilitate the connections.

The Applicant respectfully asserts that the Verma reference does not render the Applicant's claim 29 obvious since the second coverage area is used for extracting payment from a subscriber's account and the reason for handing off the client's profile/information is for the purposes of billing. Claim 39 is analogous to claim 29 and contains similar limitations. Claims 31-33, 36-38, 41-43 and 46-48 depend from claims 29 and 39 respectively and contain the same novel limitations as demonstrated above. The Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 30, 34, 35, 40, 44 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verma in view of Arazi. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Arazi reference appears to provide a technique for allowing mobile units or similar devices that support wireless communication (such as Bluetooth wireless technology) to seamlessly connect to a Wireless Private Branch Exchange (WPBX), or to a standard (wired) PBX or to a LAN or to a cellular telephone network or to a standard wired telephone network (Abstract).

Arazi is cited for disclosing larger and smaller overlapping coverage areas. This feature in Arazi is used to demonstrate the handover exchange between a WPBX and a larger network of a wireless mobile terminal. However Arazi does not disclose the use of a payment extraction unit with a coverage area that is designed for extracting payment. Instead, the Arazi specification regarding movement between coverage areas is extrapolated to wrongly indicate that when a handoff takes place between the coverage

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areas, a person of skill in the art would be able to conclude that inclusion of a payment extraction unit would be obvious.

Since Arazi does not appear to provide the limitations missing from Verma, the second coverage area used for extracting payment and handing off the client's profile/information for the purposes of billing, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 30, 34, 35, 40, 44 and 45.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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